

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No:17 and SEQ ID No:21, wherein said polypeptide interacts with a receptor protein Ret to trigger dimerization of the receptor protein Ret or autophosphorylation of a tyrosine kinase domain of the receptor protein Ret.

2. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:17 and SEQ ID NO:21.

3. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No: 17 and SEQ ID No: 21.

4. The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:21.